

Inequality



Experience Days Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology

Tessa Minter – April 5 and 12 2022

1. What do we mean by inequality?

- Inequality refers to the phenomenon of unequal and/or unjust distribution of resources and opportunities among members of a given society (Sin Yi Koh 2020).
- *Distribution*: who gets what and how much of it?
- *Resources*: **money**, infrastructure, natural assets (e.g. water, land)
- *Opportunities*: possibilities to achieve/obtain/become something (e.g. **education**, jobs)



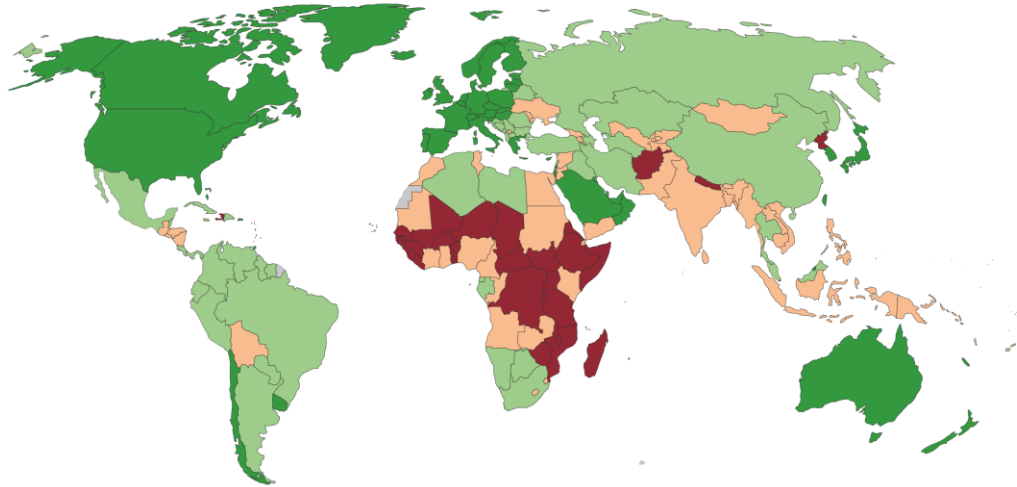
2. Inequality as unequal distribution of money

Income inequality *between* countries

World Bank's Income Groups, 2016

The World Bank's income classifications split countries into one of four categories determined by the country's gross national income (GNI) per capita in US\$. The GNI thresholds between income groups has changed through time based on World Bank definitions.

Our World in Data



■ High income ■ Low income ■ Lower-middle income ■ Not categorized
■ Upper-middle income

Source: World Bank

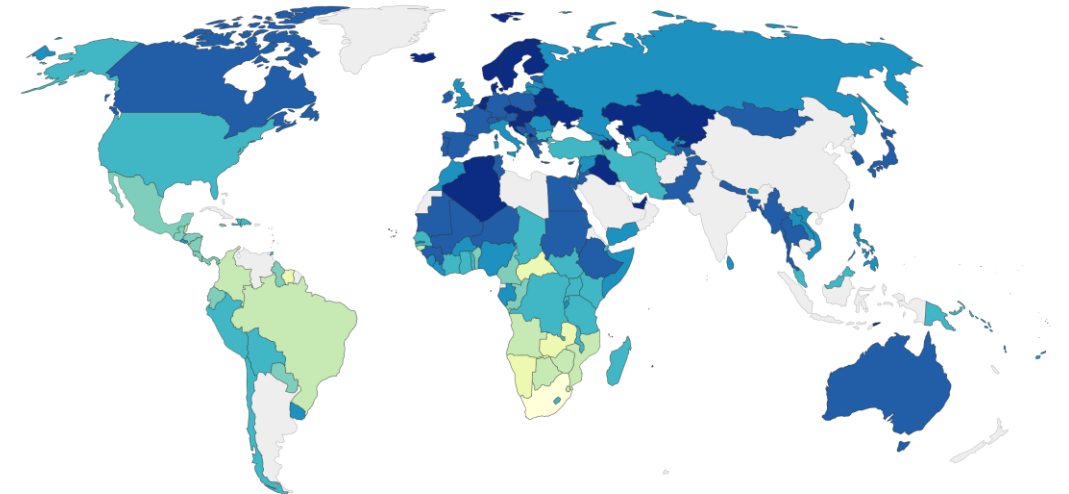
CC BY

Income (in)equality *within* countries

Income inequality – Gini Index, 2019

A higher Gini index indicates higher inequality.

Our World in Data



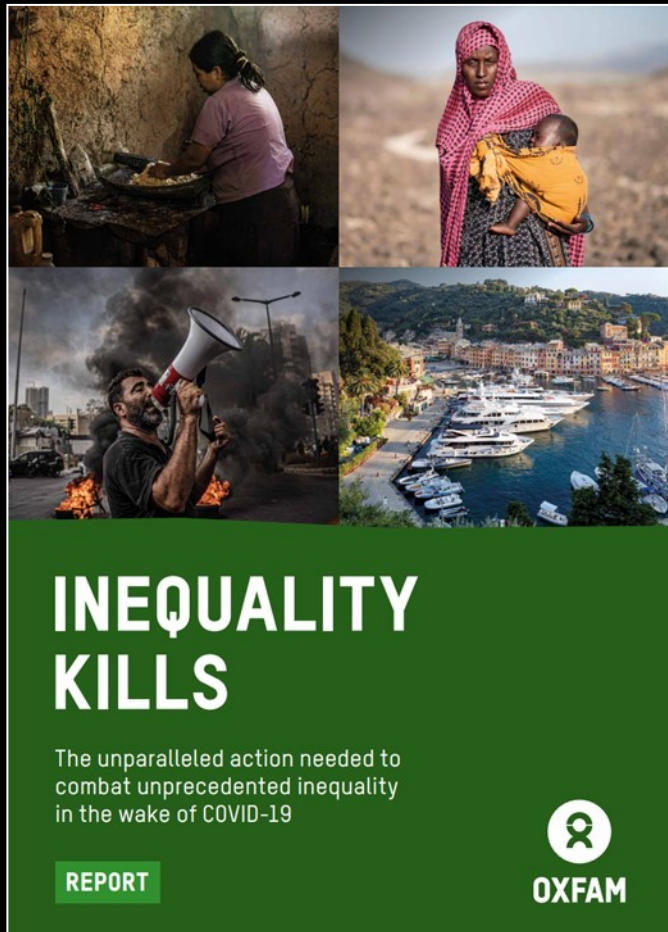
No data 20 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 70

Source: PovCal (2021)

Note: Shown is the World Bank (Povcal) inequality data. This data includes both income and consumption measures and comparability across countries is therefore limited.

OurWorldInData.org/income-inequality/ • CC BY

2. Inequality as unequal distribution of money



Example 1. Oxfam Report (January 2022):

- Since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the ...
- wealth of the world's 10 richest men has doubled;
- incomes of 99% of people have worsened
- Inequality kills because:
 - Highest share of Covid deaths are poor people
 - Vaccines are unevenly distributed around the world
 - Healthcare is worst in low and middle income countries
- Solutions:
 - Tax (billionaire) wealth
 - Invest in high quality public (health) services for all

2. Inequality as unequal distribution of money

Centraal Planbureau

Ongelijkheid en herverdeling

De herverdeling van inkomens tussen Nederlandse huishoudens komt vooral door overheidsuitgaven zoals toeslagen en bijstand, en veel minder door belastingheffing.

Ook blijkt dat hogere inkomens geen groter deel van hun inkomen afdragen aan belastingen dan lagere inkomens.

De helft van de mensen...	... verdient 19% van het inkomen en betaalt 55% belasting
40% van de mensen verdient 49% van het inkomen en betaalt 40% belasting
10% van de mensen verdient 32% van het inkomen en betaalt 36% belasting

Het onderzoek werpt nieuw licht op de ongelijkheid en herverdeling van inkomens tussen Nederlandse huishoudens doordat we ook winstinkomens meenemen, meer belastingen, zoals btw en accijnzen, en alle overheidsuitgaven, zoals onderwijs en zorg, meerekenen.

CPB Policy Brief
Arjan Lejour,
Céline van Essen, Wouter Leenders, Jan Möhlmann,
Simon Rabaté
maart 2022

Example 2. CPB Report (March 2022):

- 'Inequality and redistribution'
- 'Strongest shoulders do not carry heaviest burden'
- Richest 1% pay 50% less tax than high and middle incomes
- Poorest have a relatively higher tax burden
- Proposed solution: reform tax system

3. Inequality as unequal distribution of opportunities



Sustainable Development Goals: Adopted by the United Nations in 2015, to be achieved by 2030

Example research Philippines: Agta children going to school





4. Patterns of inequality

4. Patterns of inequality



Kya Sands, Johannesburg, South Africa (Johny Miller, 2016)



Mumbai, India (Johny Miller, 2016)

Spatial patterns of inequality

- The “north” and the “global south”
- Rural-urban
- Suburb - City centre
- ...

*And within these spaces!
Changeable over time!*

4. Patterns of inequality

***Social* patterns of inequality**

- Race/ethnicity
- Class/caste
- Gender
- Religion
- Age
- Sexuality
- Health
- ...

Question for the workgroup:

Can you think of examples in which these spatial and social patterns of inequality overlap, or even reinforce each other?

Why do you think this is the case?

5. What is the role of development sociology and cultural anthropology?

We study:

- the causes of inequality
- the consequences of inequality
- initiatives to tackle inequality

We do this:

- at global, regional, country, city, neighbourhood, village, group level (emphasis Development Sociology)
- from the perspective of individual people all over the world: what does inequality mean in people's everyday lives? (emphasis Cultural Anthropology)

5. What is the role of development sociology and cultural anthropology?


We use our insights to:

- Critically reflect on society
- Critically reflect on policy
- Contribute to improved policy formulation and implementation
- And ... educate a new generation of driven people who will contribute to a more equal world



info brief
CIFOR info briefs provide concise, accurate, peer-reviewed information on current topics in forest research.
No. 154, September 2021
DOI: 10.1117/2018-09-00005 | cifor.org

A call to protect women's rights in Solomon Islands' forestry legislation, policy and practice
Tessa Minter¹



A woman crosses a log pond in West Aneiani, Malaita, 2018
Photo by Tessa Minter

Key messages

- Gender inequality and gender-based violence are major development issues throughout Solomon Islands.
- Injustices against women and girls are particularly pronounced in the logging sector.
- Solomon Islands is making important advances towards designing policies that aim to achieve gender equity, but these advances are yet to become visible within the forestry sector.
- This info brief summarizes research on the impacts of logging operations on Solomon Islands' women and girls.
- It calls for the development of legislation, policy and practice that ensures gender equity in logging operations and offers recommendations for doing so.
- The National Forest Policy and ongoing review of the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act provide important opportunities to address the gender injustices that characterize the Solomon Islands' logging sector.

Gender disparities in Solomon Islands
Gender disparities form a major development challenge throughout Solomon Islands. Women and girls are severely underrepresented in public decision making.

¹ Institute for Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, Leiden University

political participation and paid work (MWYCA 2016; World Bank 2019, 12). Prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country is very high: 64% of Solomon Islands' women experience physical or sexual intimate partner violence, and there are few effective means to seek help and justice in GBV cases, especially outside of urban centres (ADB 2015, xvi; Ride and Soak 2019).